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APR 23 2001

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CLAIMS

4. **(Twice Amended)** A method of predicting increased risk of sight-threatening diabetic retinopathy, comprising identifying in isolated genomic DNA from a sample previously taken from a diabetic patient a genetic polymorphism pattern comprising a polymorphism selected from the group consisting of: IL-1RN (VNTR) allele 1, IL-1 A [(-511)] (-889) allele 2, and IL-1B [(-889)] (-511) allele 2, wherein the presence of the genetic polymorphism pattern is predictive of an increased risk of sight-threatening diabetic retinopathy.